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Tuesday, 10 March 2009, 12:51  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MONROVIA 000188  
SIPDIS  
EO 12958 DECL: 03/10/2019  
TAGS PREL, PGOV, UNSC, PHUM, KCRM, LI  
SUBJECT: PRO-TAYLOR ELEMENTS STILL A FORCE TO BE RECKONED  
WITH

Classified By: Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: The recent remarks by Special Court for Sierra Leone prosecutor Stephen Rapp suggesting Charles Taylor may go free because of RAPP'S COMMENTS RAISE CONCERN WITHIN THE GOL

2. (C) Chief Prosecutor Stephen Rapp's ill considered announcement in the press February 24 that Charles Taylor may walk free because of a sug  
3. (C) The press accounts out of The Hague have also emboldened the pro-Taylor factions here, including his extended family members, financier  
GOL TREADING CAREFULLY WITH TAYLOR FACTIONS

4. (C) The government itself is caught in the middle. There is quite little the GOL can do legally to arrest, prosecute or freeze assets of th  
5. (C) The Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of August 2003 that ended the 14-year civil war, did not require the NPP to disband and i  
COMMUNICATIONS AMONG TAYLOR SUPPORTERS REMAIN STRONG

6. (C) The pro-Taylor forces still have the ability to organize themselves. An NPP rally in December 2008 gathered a sizeable crowd, and Tayl  
7. (C) Although we do not have any direct evidence to support the belief that pro-Taylor factions are behind much of the  
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armed robbery on the premise that crime will keep the government weak and the country unstable, the GOL is certainly convinced of this, and has

8. (C) Lines of communications within Taylor's faction, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) remain intact. To be sure, the disarman

9. (C) Certainly, the same is true for the other factions, the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for I  
THREAT OF TAYLOR'S RETURN ADVANCES THEIR CAUSE

10. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXXX

11. (C) The threat of a return of Taylor strengthens their hand and for now they see no need to give in at all. However, if Taylor is put away

12. (C) The international community has just a few tools to pressure the Taylor people into accepting the new reality. The UN sanctions appear  
NEXT STEPS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

13. (C) However, the best we can do for Liberia is to see to it that Taylor is put away for a long time and we cannot delay for the results of

14. (C) The peace in Liberia remains fragile, and its only guarantee is the robust and adaptable UNMIL presence. The GOL does not have the abi